THE Comic Reader

THE A.C.B.F.C. OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

#51 $ .15

St. Louis'

NationWide ~

ComicArtCon ~

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Gateway Con I !!!

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- ✓ Round Table Discussion: ROY THOMAS ~ DAVE KIBLER, GLEN JOHNSON, BILJO WHITE, STEVE GERBER, and DERRILL ROTHERMICH ~
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Robert Schoenfeld, 9516 Minerva, St. Louis, Mo. 63114

ON THE DRAWING BOARD

NEWS ABOUT THE CONS IN NEW YORK: From the news that I gave you last issue, you would never know that the boys from the sci-fi crowd would be giving a convention about comic books Well, they are and it takes place on July 23 and 24 at the Park-Sheraton Hotel, 56th and 7th Avenue. The con is dedicated to Jack Kirby and he will be the main speaker at their 1:30 p.m. meeting on Jyly 23. A second panel that day will discuss the Forgotten Fifties. Later that day, a program of films and old serial chapters will be shown. On Sunday, the day begins with a panel about whether comics have improved over the years and a mid-afternoon will have the pros facing questions from the floor. For more news on the final program, write John Benson, 207 West 80th Street, #22, New York, New York 10024.

The members of the Academy in New York and Connecticut have been working on the Academy con since early in February. And this is the way the program goes as of now. The Constitution Hall of the City Squire Motor Inn, Broadway and 51st Street, in New York has been rented for three days. They are August 12, 13, and 14. Late registrators and persons signing in can meet on the fifth floor of the hotel starting at 5 p.m. At exactly 7:30 p.m., the con gets on its way with a surprise guest speaker. So that means everyone should try to make the con all three days. You won't want to miss Friday evening, whatever you do! Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m., the Marvel Bullpin takes over to fill you in on the daily normal life of a Marvel Madman. There will be Roy Thomas, Bill Everett, Sol Brodsky, Flo Steinberg, and many more. About noon or one, the meeting breaks up for free time to see the exhibits of original art and for the attendents to buy and trade books. Many may want to see the Superman broadway show as the theatre is only one block away from the hotel. Tickets for it can be ordered through the con, so send in your reservations now! Matinees both Saturday and Sunday. Saturday evening at 6:30, Flo Steinberg will play hostess to the masquerading members of Fandom. And there will be another special program of pros and perhaps a film. Early Sunday morning, the Batmanians will hold a special meeting for all the Batmanians attending the con. At 10:30 a.m., they will open the hall to all the other members of Fandom so they can meet the men behind Batman. Biljo White will moderate a panel of pros containing Bill Finger, Carmine Infantino, Julius Schwartz, Gardner Fox, and many more. About 1 p.m., the gang breaks up for more free time to trade and buy books and see more of the exhibits. There will be time to meet the pros and get their autographs. A second reception opens at 6 p.m. after which a panel of editors will discuss their books and the market they are trying to reach with them. This will include Dick Giordano of Charlton, Bill Harris of King, Sam Schwartz of Tower, and many more. And that's not all by any means. National has promised to have Bob Holiday drop by for a few minutes in between his role as Superman. And the newspaper cartoonists will be there to talk with Fandom and perhaps to do a chalk talk about their characters. The admission to the Academy Con is $5 for the 2 1/2 days! Money in the form of check or money orders--no cash--should be sent right now to-ACADEMY CON, BOX 505, COOPER STATION, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10003. Make all checks payable to David Kaler, please.

MINATURE MODEL MADNESS. Aurora Plastics have finally finished the three new models based on

the TV Batman show. You'll be able to find the Batmobile on the shelves of your local shops about the third week of July. The Robin kit and the Batplane kit will go on sale soon afterwards. Aurora was also appointed in secret to design the two cars to be used on The Green Hornet show. For normal daytime rounds, he will travel in a white convertible. But Brett Reed's alter ego, The Green Hornet, will be chauffered in the only car ever designed by a college educated valet, The Black Beauty.

THE SUPER FAMILY RIDES AGAIN! Another super organization opposes Superman in the November issue when the Man From Krypton battles Demon to find a mystic gem which could destroy the Earth. Superboy and Supergirl are out of the League of Super-Heroes for good! And an even stranger pair replace the super duo. It's all in Adventure #350. Action #343 has Superman battling a fifty foot colossus known as Eterno! And in World's Finest, Superman teams up with Batman to become "The Pawns Of The Jousting Master!" And it all takes place in Camelot. How Jimmy Olsen combats a villain who can predict disasters is in issue #98 of his own book. For those liking imaginary tales, Superboy comes to Earth as a villain in issue #134 of his own book.

THE TOWER TITANS. Dynamo #2 introduces another crime organization known as SPIDER. UNDERSEA Agent has plenty of trouble when Scubby becomes a monster in issue #4. THUNDER Agents #8 finally has the crew defeat the Warlords. And in September, the first issue of NoMan hits the stands.

MORE FROM DC. You'll find "The Bracelet Of Deadly Charms" in Strange Adventures #94. Tales Of The Unexpected will treat you to "Half-Man, Half-Machine!", "The Weird Passenger In Cabin 13!" and the "Elevator To Nowhere!"

CHARLTON'S LATEST! Captain Atom finds himself involved in redeeming himself with the help of Project Rebirth in the concluding part of this adventure called "After The Fall, A New Beginning!" The second installment of the new Blue Beetle strip has the gimmicky guy meet the Map Menace who is trying to learn how to use the sacarab. My apologies to Gary Friedrich who wrote the first story and will continue to write it. The Fightin' Five face The Monster From The Abyss in issue #41. In this issue is also the conclusion of the first Peacemaker tale. The Peacemaker takes over the book in 18 page tales with The Fightin' Five as the second feature and boy are they going to change in the next few issues. Judomaster #92 has the Master of Oriental Combat facing the Smiling Skull, one of Sarge Steel's old villains, when he goes to Germany to continue following the trail of a spy ring. Sarge Steel concludes his role as a double agent in this issue. The main action takes place on a B-70 and is high flying drama. The Sentinels meet their first major villain, The Mind Bender, in Thunderbolt #56.

DC'S DOOERS OF SUPER DEEDS. Aquaman has been deposed and even turned into a coward. But the end is at hand when the Sea King is killed in issue #30. The younger crowd find themselves with another contender to enter their ranks when Beast Boy visits the Teen Titans in order to become "The Fifth Titan!" Even the funny heroes have their ups-and-downs when Showcase #65 features the Inferior Five as teachers at a school for super-heroes.No news on the stories in Plastic Man #1 but the book will be brought out in September or early October. The Human Rubber Band is finally back. Metamorpho #9 hasthe Element Man lost in "The Valley Time Forgot!" Robby Reed dials himself into 2 twin threats to combat Baron Bug and his insect army. It's all in House Of Mystery #163.

THE ACTION FROM ACG. Herbie #22 features the Fat Fury in "Just Like Magic" in which the Fat Fury uses magic and the magic words, Alla Ka Poo! The second feature has Herbie as "Almost A King!" "Beware The Chinese Sorcerer" has Magicman straining to overcome a oriental magician in For bidden Worlds #140. The companion weird tale is named"Don't let The Ghost Take Shape." Nemesis looks down on Earth and sees Hitler in control of the world. Has the victory of the allies been only a dream? Adventures Into The Unknown leads off with "Wanted Hitler--Dead or Alive!" A sci-fi tale fills out the book, "Two Vials From Vidalia!" Unknown Worlds again features that Magic Agent, John Force, in issue #52.This time around he is a "Dead Duck In Red China!" "The Grizzly Ghost of Ghostly Grange" is

the companion satirical supernatural feature.

THE BIG ONES FROM BOLTINOFF. The December Tomahawk #107 has the pioneer hero facing "Double Cross Of The Gorilla Ranger." The Sea Devils are lost in the future when they are victim of The Deep Six Time Trap in their book #32. The Doom Patrol is at odds with each other over Beast Boy. The war over Beast Boy takes top billing over the personal live story of Negative Man as he performs in the race against Doctor Death! And the Challengers try to discover "Who is the Traitor Among Us?" The villains in this one are the Iron Dictator and Dimension Man. And just for laughs, you'll have to come alongwhen Bob Hope discovers the Secret Identity Of Super-Hip in #103.

THE LATEST FROM KING. Flash Gordon #3 will have art by Ric Estrada and story by Bill Pearson Estrada has done work on the Flash Gordon newspaper strip while Pearson has done writing for the Tower Group. This issue finds Flash on Mongo amongst Lizard Men and Hawkmen on the trail of the ever elusive figure of the menacing Ming. Contrary to what I previously reported in my last column, King has decided to use new material in the Mandrake and Phantom books. Phantom #3 will reintroduce the female Phantom of the past. But her first appearance will be gone over lightly in order to present her in an entirely new adventure. Bill Lignante continues as the artist on this book. Mandrake finds himself involved in spies up to his eyebrows. Seems a scientist has discovered a bomb that only kills people and doesn't destroy property. Enemy agents kidnap him, naturally, and Mandrake sets out to rescue him. Andre Le Blanc, whose work can be found in old Quality books, continues as artist on this one. Bill Harris is very interested in hearing what you think of the new King line of books. He'd also like to hear from you about what you think of the art and stories as well as what other characters you would like to have appear once again in comic book form. The oldsters amongst you will have a chance to tell Bill which old newspaper strip you would like to see reprinted. So get out those pens and pencils right now so that Bill can produce the books you'd like to see on the stand.

THE BATMAN BEAT. Dectective #357 features radio and TV personality William B. Williams when "Bruce Wayne Unmasks Batman!" And for real wackiness, Jerry Lewis #97has Batman meeting DC's king of Kooks. Lois Lane gets into the act when she masquerades as the Catwoman in issue #70 in order to duel the Penguin. Batman for Novembers brings back the Joker in "The Joker's Original Robberies!" For this story, the Joker takes on a midget sidekick named Gaggie. The second feature is "Commisioner Gordon's Death Threat!" The December issue introduces the Eraser who goes wild trying to rub out Batman. Batman and Robin go slightly wild when they find "The Ten Best Dressed Corpses In Gotham City!"

SCHWARTZ'S SAGAS! The Justice League and Felix Faust both face the puzzle of discovering who is the real Felix Faust in issue #49 in "The Threat Of The True-Or-False Sorcreer!" Edgar Allen Poe figures prominently in Hawkman #17 when the Winged Wonder faces "The Ruse Of The Robbing Raven!" Chronos is back and the Atom has more than time on his hands in issue #28 when the Mighty Mite tries to solve "The Time Standstill Theft!" Professor Zoom shows up to spoil the wedding of Barry Allen and Iris West in Flash #165. Another hero hits the bridal path for real. Which is hardly the case for Green Lantern when Hal Jordon loses Carol Ferris and becomes a drifter from one job to another. All this and the meeting of a new villain, The Dazzler, straight out of the TV screen. And it's called "The Spectacular Robberies Of TV's Master Villain." And the Justice League Annual this time around reprints "The Challange Of The Weapons Master!", "The Secret Of The Sinister Sorcerers!" and "The Slave Ship Of Space!" Almost forgot Elongated Man! First the strip is done by Murphy Anderson and Syd Green because Carmine had an accident. It's called "The Tragedy Of The Too-Lucky Thief!"

MORE BUBBLE GUM CARDS. Topps has done a second version of their third set of Batman cards. Instead of only campy story lines, they have added some more puzzles in order to please the many youngsters that wro e asking for them. The fourth set of the cards features color photos of the television Batman crew. The backs contain large photo puzzles as well as bat jokes.

MY FAVORITE UNCLE!!
by Derrill Rothermich

By now you are all probably wondering just what is going on with TCR and/or OTDB. It is a rather complicated story so I might as well get busy. TCR and OTDB are remerging to form a biweekly to monthly newsletter. I had sincere intentions of making TCR a large fanzine as I have explained before. However, something has happened just recently that changes all of these plans....namely, I got drafted. I have spent the past few weeks, and boy what hectic weeks, appealing the decision but there is nothing I can do about it. It's not that I don't want to serve but that I would have liked to finish my last year of school first. However, this is just not to be the case. My local draft board is very short of persons to fill its quota and so somebody had to be found. I bear no grudge about this fact as I consider it an honor to serve my country. I intend to volunteer for Viet Nam duty as soon as possible and God willing I will be back in a few years to continue my education and my activities in Fandom. I deeply regret having to leave Fandom at this time but I will be back as soon as possible. Since I will be leaving the firstof August I won't be able to put out the giant issue of TCR I had planned. It would really have been a top zine. However, all the material is being sent on to other fanzines and you will be able to see these items elsewhere. Do not worry because all money will be refunded as soon as possible. I have no intention to cheat anyone on this matter. Please just be patient on this point. I know exactly how much I owe each of you and you will be receiving your money as quickly as possible.

Now I am extremely glad that I had found somebody willing to handle the newsletter . I won't have to try to find somebody else to take over at this last moment. All that is really involved is returning the name of OTDB to THE COMIC READER which has already been done as you now know. Since this is the fourth issue of OTDB since TCR #47, the TCR number for this issue is then TCR #51. This is the only major change to be made. The price per issue will remain the same. All future issues will appear hopefully on a bi-weekly schedule but on a monthly schedule at the least. You will get all the news and a couple of special features as quickly as possible. The average length of the future issues of TCR will be about 8 pages long. Man, what more could you want for a dime. So in the future, send all letters about TCR on to Bob Schoenfeld in St. Louis. I will be rejoining Fandom again as soon as I fullfill my military obligation.

Before I have to leave, I will at least have a chance to attend the Dallas and St. Louis Comicons. I am really looking forward to both of these--especially the St. Louis one as two of my very favorite pros will be there. I have already met Reed Crandall but never Stan Lee who is by far my favorite editor. Stan will be in St. Louis for a Friday evening meeting along with pro-writer and new Academy Executive Secretary David Kaler. It will be one of the greatest events of the year so attend if at all possible. I can guarantee you a great weekend. Two recent additions to the Discussion panel include Ed April and, of course, Dave Kaler.

As of this writing, I already have much of TCR #52 on hand and it most likely will come out just before the St. Louis Con on or about July 28 making it less than two weeks between issues. I think that you will agree that the Gateway Club is doing an excellent job on TCR and I think that they should be allowed to continue with it. The printing in future issues will probably be done via ditto as is this issue for two very good reasons. First of all, offset printing takes far longer and therefore slows up the news. This is a mistake that I made and deeply regret. Also, for the prices we are charging, the club can hardly afford anything else. The subscription prices are at rock-bottom so take advantage of them. Ditto is a sufficiently versital medium for TCR. As for as TCR's future is concerned, see Dave's letter later in this issue.

I have deeply enjoyed Fandom and hate to leave but I will be back as soon as possible. I hope I will see many changes for the better when I do return. My best wishes to all my friends out there in Fandom. I will try to keep in contact with you if possible.

Comic-ally yours,

Derrll

David Kaler
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Before I get started with the proposals, I'll explain why I have thought these changes to be necessary. In the last issue of BB-CC, there was an article by Phil Seuling knocking the Academy. Many of his points are valid ones and should be heard. The big point is that for $2 the Academy members get nothing but a bunch of slips that entitle one to discounts on items he may not even want. In fact, for some the coupon offers very little excitement to them. If other organizations collect dues and publish a newsletter for their members, then the Academy should do likewise. This is included in the dues. Even some membersof the Board don't get TCR so haven't been able to keep track of what is going on in Fandom. That monthly newsletter is a necessity. So here are my formal proposals.

First, a new name is needed to include all collectors and attract the pros that have been reticent to acknowledge us. The word ACADEMY stands for a learned society or institution devoted to the study of arts and sciences. Devoted we may be, but learned is not an apt description. Also I've often heard derogatory remarks about the fancy name that we give ourselves and this also includes some laughter about the name. On top of that, I know that some of the biggest pros in newspaper strips avoid us like crazy because the words comic books makes them think we are all a bunch of kids of nine and ten years old. Plus persons who only collect newspaper strips often will not join us for the same reason. So what we need is a new name that will appeal to all and lure the big pros that were once in comic books over to our side and help us get more information on the early years in comic strips and books. The new name should be COMICOLLECTORS INTERNATIONAL. It includes all members who collect books, newspaper strips and special items such as pins, buttons and other items that belong to the comic group. It also includes those foreign members of the group such as the fans in England, Australia, Canada, etc.

Secondly, raising the fee to belong to the Academy and giving the members something for their money. I want to have pins made up to identify us and membership cards for all members to carry. I also want to give them a regular monthly newsletter for the same price so that they will know that we are doing something and just exactly what we aredoing. I also want to give them a zine that's theirs to use for their articles and for getting together with the other members of Fandom. Besides we need something to replace TCR now that it will be used to present big articles such as Alter Ego and Comic World usedtodo. (This was before Dave found out about the fact that the large TCR isn't going to come into existance. Still such a zine is needed since TCR will be kept strictly to news---ed.) This zine will also cover such topics as the two articles I did on the Rutland Parade and the camp crowd. They are not that big on old comic strips or books. So they belong in some other magazine of topical interest. It also will include a monthly column written by members from different cities around the nation and in foreign countries telling what they are doing and what is happening in their localities. Then the back half of the zine will be devoted to ads for trades, selling, and fanzines. The new fee for the club would then be $5 per year. For this fee, the members get a pin to wear, a card to carry, the monthly newsletter (TCR) and a bi-monthly magazine to be called COMMICOLLECTORS INTERNATIONAL. This also entitles them to the discounts on such items as AE and other publications that agree to give discounts to the Academy.

Thirdly, get going on the Alley Awards trophies. I want this as badly as you do but I don't think that giving one to everyone who wins a prize is the right way. I thinkthat the one big award for the year should go to one big winner--The Best Comic Book Of The Year and The Best Fanzine Of The Year and The Best Fan Activity Of The Year. All others should receive certificates to denote their accomplishments. This is what the pros of the National Cartoonist Society do. The main awards go to the biggest winners and the others all receive plagues of merit. If they can do this and please their members, we can do it and please ours. Plans are now being made to contact a professional---the artist of the Alley Oop strip--to design our pin, our card and the Alley Award and certificates. They should be ready soon and the Alley statue ready by next year.

Bill Spicer
4878 Granada Street
Los Angeles, Calif.
90042

Supporting members of the Academy didn't get much last year in return for the $2.00 fee. Hopefully, under the capable leadership of the new Academy Secretary David Keler, the ACBFC will begin to function and grow again as it did a couple years ago but then fell by the wayside due to lack of leadership. I feel certain the Academy could and should be more efficiently organized and directed and your initial steps as outlined here in OTDB are quite satisfactory. As a Board member, I commend your initiative. I hope our other Board members will rally to the reorganization of the Academy that is now underway in the pages of OTDB.

Your suggestion to distribute the Academy's administrative work among several persons makes sense because, as you've pointed out, the job is too much for a single person to handle effectively. Whether or not the Gateway Comic Art Fan Club of St. Louis can successfully assume a major share of the Academy's administrative and productive dutiesre mains to be seen but I'm willing to go along with a trial period provided Board memberss vote in favor of the move. However, before we can do this I think it's necessary that we know who you're talking about when you nemtion the Club. Personally, I'd never heard of the group until you spoke of it in TCR a couple issues ago and I doubt if very many other fans, if any at all, have heard of the club outside the local St. Louis area. Checking through my subscription file, I see that Bob Schoenfeld gets FI but other than Bob, you and Biljo White--who may or may not be a member--I have absolutely no idea who makes up the club roster. I'm not suggesting the group is incapable of effectively handling any Academy projects that may come up but before a single Board member is asked to vote on your prpposal I do think that we should be told a little more about the fans comprising the club's membership. For instance, it might not be a bad idea to publish in the next issue of OTDB a complete listing of its members including mailing addresses, individual reading and collecting preferences in the comics field plus any art, writing, or publishing credits that each member may have in the fanzine field. In short, capsule biographies --just a few lines--of each club member. After all, if the Gateway Club is to assume a major role in producing TCR plus some of the other Academy projects that will eventually come up I feel that present Board members and the TCR readership will have to be briefed at least minimally on its membership.

Granted, any annonymity that might now exist to the majority of fans will gradually disappear with the publication of future TCRs and the forthcoming GOSH WOW. But in the meantime, it's my guess that most Board members could use more information on the Gateway Club, it's roster, and its activities--especially prior to calling for our vote regarding the Club's role in Academy functions.

((You have a very valid point about the Academy membership needing full information about the club and I hope that Bob's editorial in the next issue will satisfy you on thispoint. The reason that you had never heard of the group before is that it has only recently been organized. Still, this shouldn't be held against it. The club will do an excellent job on anything that it might handle. I think that you will agree that it is doing an excellent job on TCR. Both Biljo and I are members of this club but all the other members are residents of the immediate St. Louis area. I am positive that if given a trial period, the club will prove my confidence in their ability to handle any job that the Academy can give them. I encourage all members of the Board and all other interested personsto write Bob or Dave and let their biews be heard. I personally feel that it is the duty of the Board members to get into this debate over the future of the Academy. Now, back to more letters--Derrill))

Steve Fritz
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I have just read George Martin's letter in OTDB. As I commented before, I was quite startled in the change in TCR. But I think the change was necessary. It seemed to me like TCR was becoming less and less like the TCR of yore. There were too many articles and less news, particularly about the Academy. Now that you have OTDB, don't change its format. Make sure it stays just an outlet for news releases and Academy news. Don't add anything else to it.

George has a good point when he said Forum should be made public. After all, if we

are paying $2 a year we should be able to see some materialistic form of what our money is for. As long as I'm on the subject of fees, I thought it was to include a copy of the 1965 WHO'S WHO. That has yet to materialize. Don't get me wrong. The money hasn't been wasted. Just giving it to the Academy makes it worthwhile so long as the Academy does something with it.

As for the "assistant secretary", he should be someone who lives near to the Secretary so that they can get together as often as possible. He should not only be able to take over at a moments notice but be someone who can aid the Secretary as much as possible. Having a group like the Gateway Club is an excellent idea. I whole-heartedly agree with this and hope the Board will think it's as wise a move as it is.

Michael Maxim
4831 East Superior
Duluth, Minnesota

Maybe the Academy does need an executive branch. But many fans are fed up with the present Academy and unless drastic, immediate changes are made, we aren't going to back it. Right now it has no say in anything. It has no power. It is just a figurehead & is soon going to topple. I think that giving all that work to even one club is too much. The smaller jobs could, would, and should be done by Board members. If they don't or can not do it then they shouldn't be on the Board. Also, it seems that in electing Board members ballots are sent out with the names of all the supporting members on it. Is this sinsible? Only those who truly want to work on the Board and who are willing to give up spare time in order to get the work done should be nominated. Also, five or so Academy members who fit these qualifications but aren't elected should be kept on file in case a Board member fails to complete the work assigned. Of course, he can't be blamed if overburdened but don't overburden him. Like I said, individual members should be given the smaller jobs while groups like the Gateway Club should be given the bigger ones, like the publication of the WHO'S WHO. Now if the Board member fails through some fault of his own, one of the five would take his place. In this way you will get only those on the Board who really want to work to improve Fandom. And isn't this their main job? I agree with you about having an Assistant Secretary but let's carry the changes a littlefurther.

To be honest, the Board as is, and probably in the immediate future, can do little. It may be the most powerful body in Fandom but it can and should do better. Maybe if the Board will take a little constructive criticism they'll be able to get some place. Also, using OTDB as a discussion center is just great. After all, ideas can come from any and all fans. Plus it will give the members a chance to voice their opinions and hear the opinions of others. FORUM must be joined to OTDB in order that the general fan can see what is happening and who is doing it. After all, how can a person be elected unless we know why he is being elected. If we don't agree with him and what he proposes isn't for the best, then he can be voted out of office. It is the general fan who actually support the Academy and he should know what he is supporting.

((Well, here is a viewpoint from a non Board member and he does bring out some good ideas though I do disagree with him on one or two points. First, it is not the intentionof the club to take over all Academy jobs. Indeed, all jobs that can be reasonably handled by one person should be delegated to a Board member. I only suggested that the big jobs be given to the club. These could include the printing of WHO'S WHO, for instance. There are many other jobs that can and should be handled by members of the Board. Your suggestion on the membership of the Board is a subject that can become highly controversial.Too many of the Board members have shown little or no interest in helping the Academy. Such persons really have no business being on the Board and are there for reasons I can't really understand. But the fault lies with the supporting membership. After all, it is they who elect these people to office. As much as anybody I fully realize that many of those on the Academy Board are very heavily loaded down with other activities for Fandom. These persons can be excused for not taking any direct hand in what the Academy is doing but still it doesn't excuse them from any responsibilities in voting on proposals and entering into discussions such as this on the future of the Academy. However, there are several persons on the Board who have no interest in the Academy whatsoever. Or at least it is the impression that they give me. They have the time to do work for the Academy but constantly refuse to do so. Yet they keep getting elected again and again to the Board. A change is needed and it is up to the supporting membership to make it. Those who con-

stantly do nothing shouldn't be re-elected. There are many other supporting members who may not have big names in Fandom but would be willing to devote the time necessary to the Academy. Why should they be denied a chance to work for Fandom? I feel that two things can be done to relieve this situation. First, there should be a minimual of interest required for Board members to remain in good standing. These should include a ballot onall proposals or at least a majority of them and the submission of a nomination list for the Alley Awards Poll. If they feel that no books deserved an Award they could submit ablank ballot but a ballot should be required. If a Board member can't meet these simple requirements, he has no business being on the Board in the first place. They could be dismissed by a vote of the rest of the Board members and room make available for someone who will work for the Academy. The second change that must be made along this line is that the names on the ballot should be there only at the direct request of the fan. Therefore if a certain fan hasn't interest enough to go through this simple step his name can be kept off of the ballot. The third and last step is up to the supporting membership itself. When voting for Board members, they should make it their business to be fully informed as to what the performance of each member was. Then they can vote out any Board member who isn't doing a good job. It is time for the supporting members to stop complaining about the Board and do something about it. They have the power of the ballotand should use it in an effective manner.--Derrill))

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FIRST CLASS MAIL
RETURN REQUESTED